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Protection and promotion of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Report of the Secretary-General*

The General Assembly, by its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, adopted and opened for signature, ratification or accession, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and expressed the hope that the Covenants and the Optional Protocol would be signed, ratified or acceded to without delay. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its future sessions reports concerning the status of ratification of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol. In response to that request, reports on the status of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol have been submitted annually to the Assembly since its twenty-second session in 1967.

In its resolution 60/149 of 16 December 2005, paragraph 27, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations, through the United Nations websites. The United Nations maintains such information, including on ratifications, accessions, successions, reservations, declarations, and objections to reservations, on the websites administered by Headquarters (untreaty.un.org, available through subscription) and by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org, accessible to the public). In accordance with resolution 60/149, the websites will henceforth constitute the primary means by which the Secretary-General will keep the General Assembly informed of the status of the Covenants.

* The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

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